



Speech by

Hon. Desley Boyle

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Illicit Drug Strategy, Ice

Hon. D BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety) (10.13 am): I rise to speak as acting health minister. The Beattie government is stepping up the fight against the illicit drug ice with a campaign targeting university students. There are claims that ice is now the second most commonly taken illegal drug after marijuana, with an estimated 73,000 users nationally. University orientation sessions get underway at some campuses this week and Queensland Health officers will be there to educate students about the high dangers associated with methamphetamines. Uni students are particularly vulnerable as 21 is the average age for first-time methamphetamine users. The danger is that occasional weekend use can rapidly turn to regular dependence with devastating impacts on the mind and body.

Queensland Health is setting up ice information stalls at 16 university campuses around the state as part of our government's ICE-Breaker Strategy. A range of resources will be provided to students including an ice information flyer, a brochure about amphetamines and other drug counselling information. Queensland Health will also link with university health and other services that are able to provide drug information and ongoing support to students on campus. Queensland Health is sending the following key messages about crystal methamphetamine: ice is made from a range of toxic industrial chemicals; ice can be powerfully addictive; it can trigger psychotic symptoms such as paranoia, bizarre beliefs and hallucinations; and ice impairs memory and concentration and can make you anxious, depressed, irritable or extremely aggressive.

Queensland Health is also developing a statewide education campaign aimed at pubs and clubs and other licensed venues to warn people about the grave dangers of the drug. Phil Jamieson, the frontman of popular Australian band Grinspoon, has entered rehab for ice addiction. His courage and public honesty have sent a very serious warning about ice to young adults and also sends the message loudly: if you have an ice problem, seek help. Anyone who needs help with ice or any other drug can call the 24-hour Alcohol and Drug Information Service free-call number on 1800177833.